

## PLANTING GUIDE

### *Panicum hemitomon*

#### Maidencane

**Description:** Maidencane is a perennial, warm season, native range grass, spread by creeping rhizomes. It has erect stems and grows two to six feet tall. Leaf blades are 5/8-3/4" wide by 6-10 inches in length. The leaves are smooth and free of hairiness, stem internodes are covered with a moderate pubescence. This lush green forage is highly palatable and has a high protein content.

**Conservation Use:** Primarily a wet site forage, waterway lining and shoreline stabilization plant. In areas of high rainfall or excessive runoff it may be beneficial on well-drained gullies and waste disposal areas.

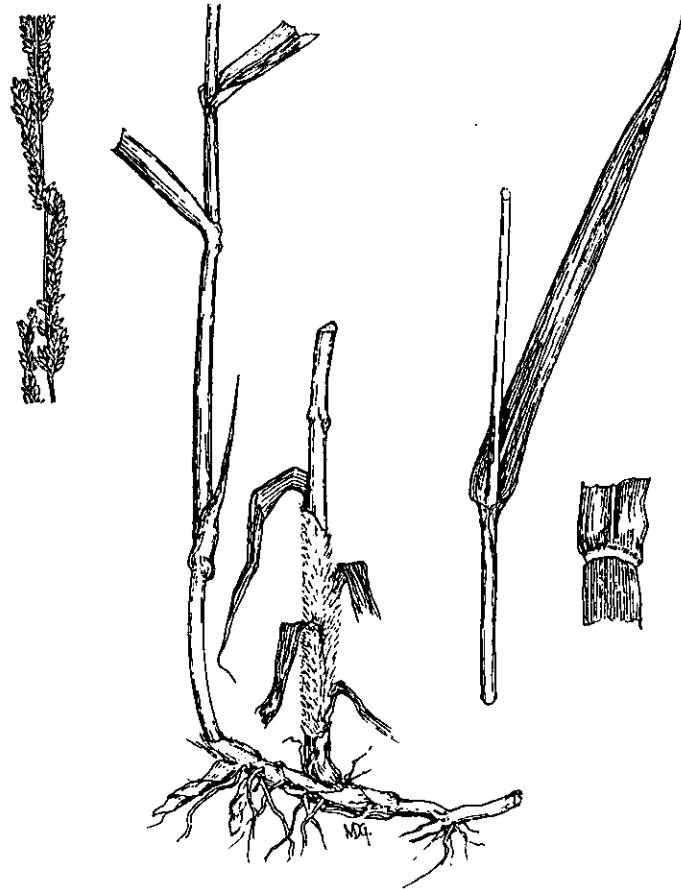
**Cultivars:** 'Halifax' has been released by the Coffeerville, Mississippi Plant Materials Center for stabilization of streambanks and watershed structures. It is available from Coffeerville.

**Site:** Primarily poorly drained soil from North Carolina to Florida and Texas, although some strains may be adapted to well drained soil.

**Soil Preparation:** Plow and thoroughly disk prior to planting.

**Planting Methods:** Mature stem materials or rhizomes may be used for planting. Seed is generally not available and may fail to germinate under some conditions.

*Panicum hemitomon*, maidencane (paille fine)



1. Top materials: Well developed and matured leaf and stem materials may be cut and used for mid-summer planting of materials on moderately well drained to poorly drained soils. A period of almost daily rainfall should be selected for this type planting. The material should be distributed on well prepared soils and embedded by means of a disk or roller chopper. When disked into the soil about 1/4-1/3 of the stem materials should be left exposed. One to one and one-half tons of top material should be used per acre. Care must be taken to prevent drying out of these materials until the planting is well established.

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2. Rhizome materials: Well developed, fleshy, vigorous rhizomes may be used for summer or winter plantings. Similar materials may be used in spring or autumn plantings if irrigation is available.

Rhizomes should be used where a quick, heavy and uniform coverage is required. For quick stand development, plant in a shallow furrow and cover about 2 inches deep, or spaced about one foot apart. Lay the rhizome pieces end to end in the furrow, or spaced with one foot intervals between the rhizome pieces (25-30 bushels per acre). Moist soil should be used for covering the rhizomes and the planting should be prevented from drying out until well established. Once well established, the maidencane is very drought tolerant and will respond quickly to renewed rains.

3. Plantings along constructed channels with steep side slopes may require hand planting with shovels or similar implements. Plant 1-1 1/2 inches deep, using up to 4 rhizome pieces per foot of row. Plant one row at waterline and other rows up the slope and on the berm. Rows will be 3 to 4 feet apart.

**Fertilization:** For establishment, broadcast 1 to 2 lb/acre of 13-13-13 or its equivalent per 100 feet of planted row. A complete fertilizer including the necessary major and minor elements should be used. Additional applications of fertilizer, using approximately the same quantity per acre as would be used for other pasture grasses, may be applied to established stands in early spring or late winter.

**Caution: Fertilizer or herbicides should not be used where they may enter water or food supply channels.**

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